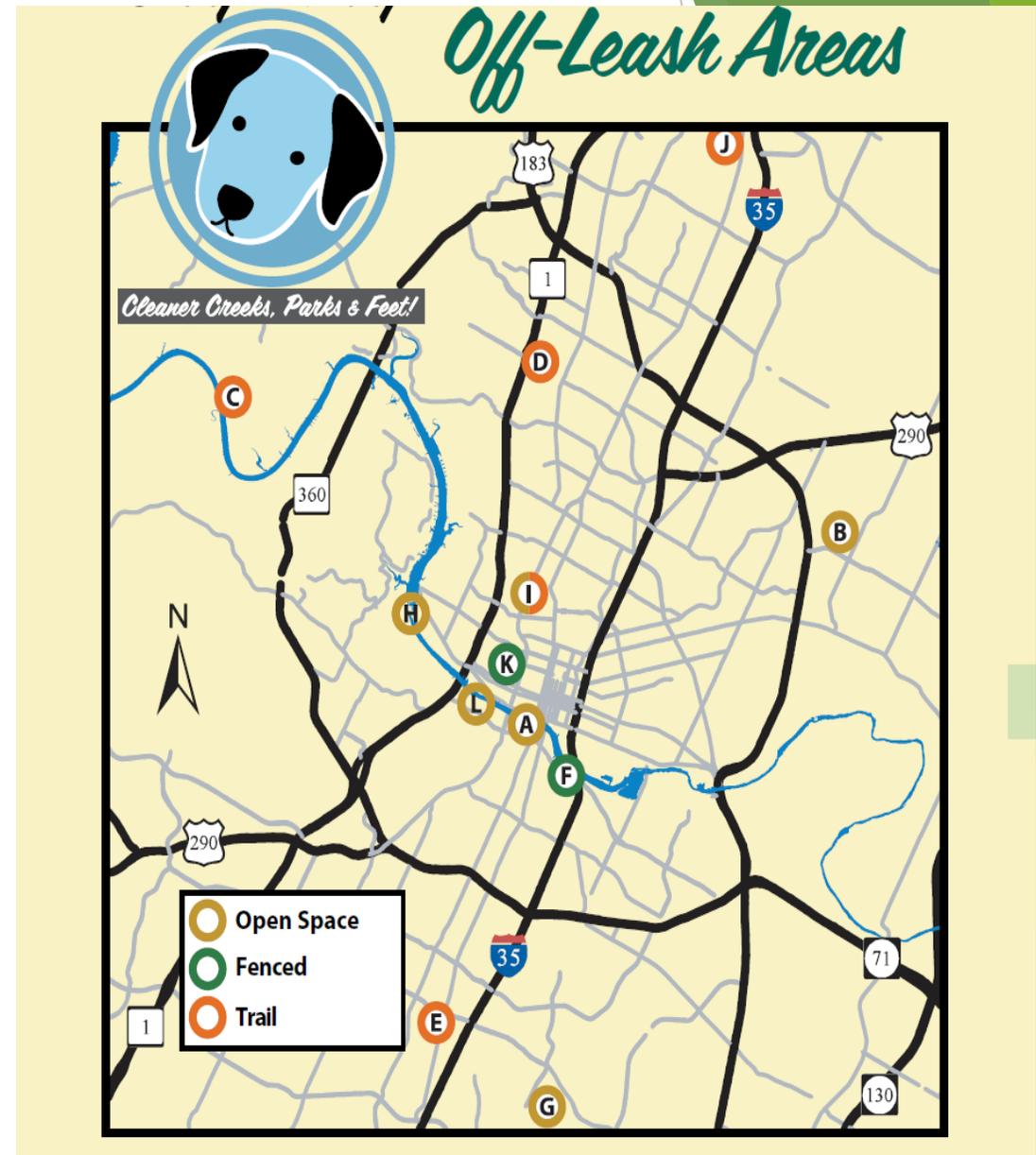


# Off Leash Dogs and Enforcement Challenges

Amanda Ross—Division Manager, Natural Resources  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department  
October 2017



<b>A</b>	West Auditorium Shores	800 W. Riverside Dr. 78704
<b>B</b>	Davis White Northeast District Park	5909 Crystalbrook Dr. 78724
<b>C</b>	Tukey Creek Trail at Emma Long Metropolitan Park	1600 City Park Rd. 78730
<b>D</b>	Far West	6916 Great Northern Blvd. 78757
<b>E</b>	Mary Moore Searight Off-Leash Trail	907 W. Slaughter Ln. 78748
<b>F</b>	Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metropolitan Park	1009 Edgecliff Terrace 78704
<b>G</b>	Onion Creek District Park	7001 Onion Creek Dr. 78744
<b>H</b>	Red Bud Isle	3401 Red Bud Trail 78703
<b>I</b>	Shoal Creek Greenbelt	2600-2799 Lamar Blvd. 78705
<b>J</b>	Walnut Creek District Park (North of the Creek)	12138 N. Lamar Blvd 78753
<b>K</b>	West Austin Park	1317 W. 10th St. 78703
<b>L</b>	Zilker Park The Great Lawn	2100 Barton Springs Rd. 78746



## Code 14.1.13 --- Animals

- ▶ Austin leash ordinance requires dogs to be on a leash no longer than 6 feet on all City land.
- ▶ A person shall remove waste left by an animal under the person's care.
- ▶ A person who brings an animal into a park may not permit the animal to remain unattended or create a disturbance or a hazard.
- ▶ Dogs not allowed in water of a swimming pool or designated swim area.
- ▶ Up to \$500 fine.

# City Ordinances—Dogs Off Leash Areas

- ▶ Dogs must be within sight and sound control of owners/handlers at all times.
- ▶ Dogs in heat are not allowed in off-leash areas.
- ▶ Rabies vaccinations are required for all dogs as required by State Law.
- ▶ Owners/handlers must clean up after their dogs and deposit waste into a trash can.
- ▶ Aggressive dogs must be removed from public spaces immediately (must have leash on hand to restrain as needed).

# Levels of Notification & Enforcement

- ▶ Informational Signage & Notification
- ▶ Voluntary Compliance (through contact with Park Rangers or Austin Police Department)
- ▶ Ticketing & Fines
- ▶ Joint Park Ranger & APD Efforts

# Informational Signage



AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

**NO ALCOHOL**  
NO FIRES  
NO GLASS

**DOGS ON LEASH**  
PERROS CON CORREA

**PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT**  
LLEVESE SU BASURA

**CALL 311 TO REPORT VIOLATIONS**  
LLAME AUSTIN 311 PARA REPORTAR VIOLACIONES

**CITATIONS UP TO \$500 PER VIOLATION**  
MULTA HASTA \$500 POR CADA VIOLACIÓN

CITY OF AUSTIN

**LEASH LAWS**  
STRICTLY ENFORCED

**ALL ANIMALS MUST BE UNDER RESTRAINT**

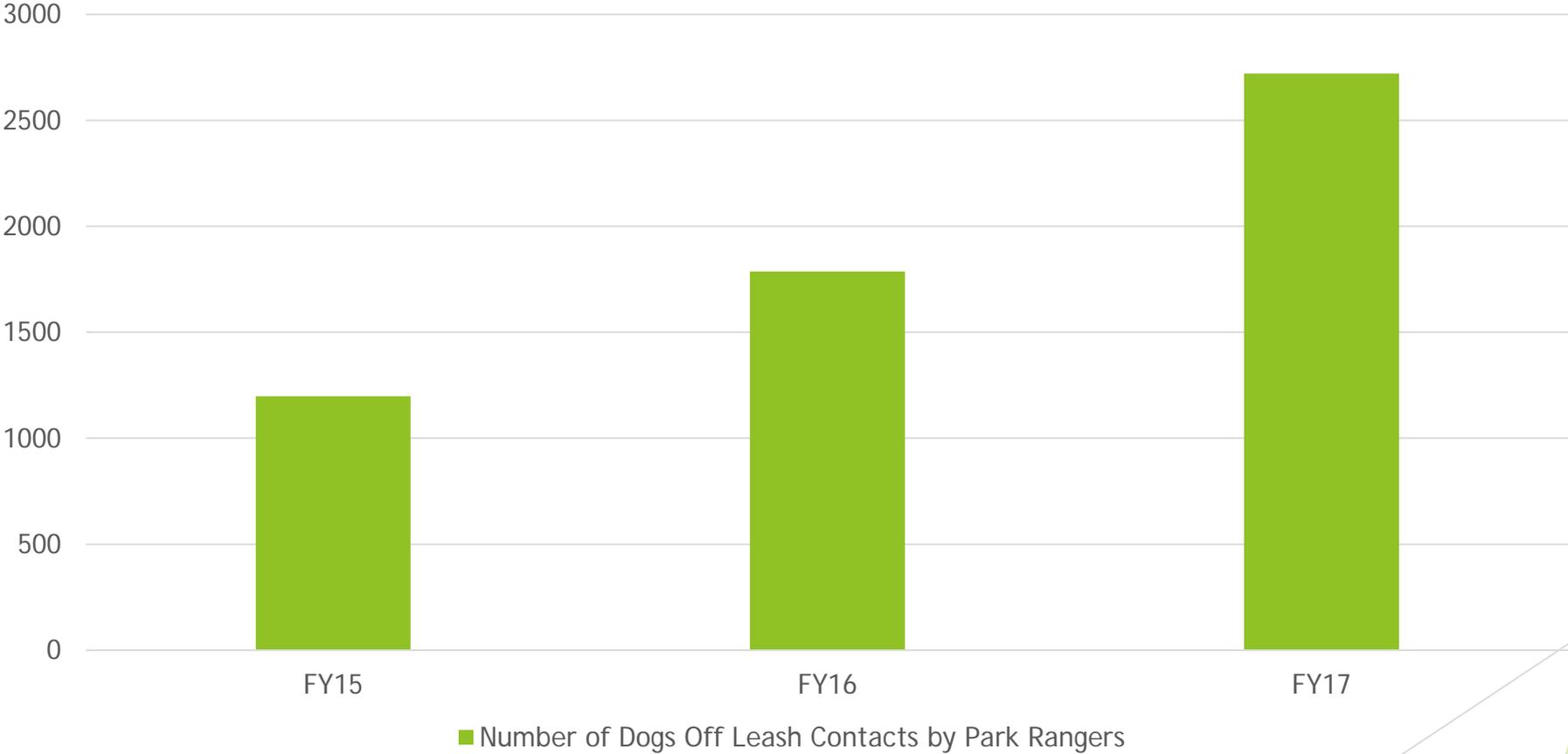
# Movable Large Signage Display In Problem Areas



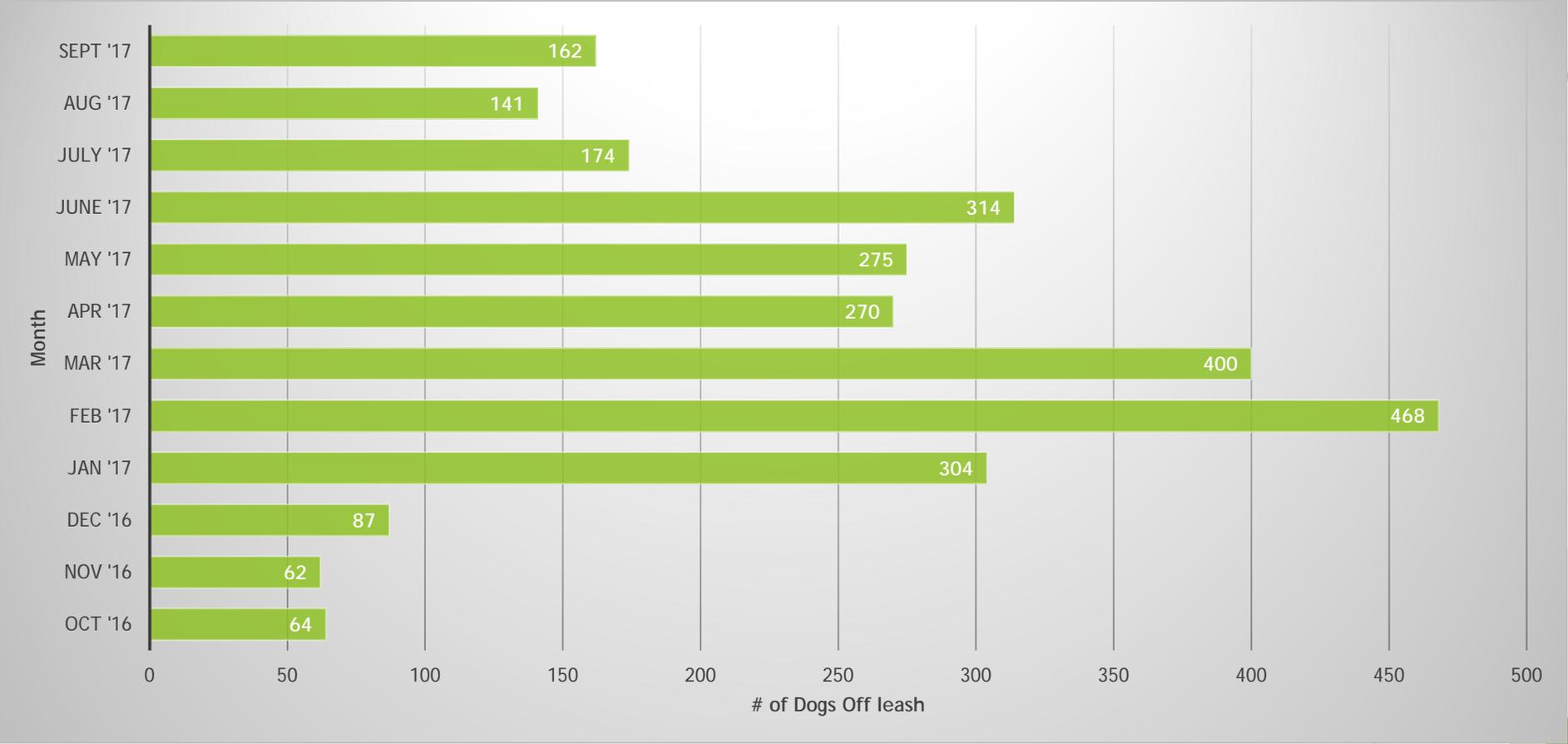
# Voluntary Compliance

- ▶ Seek compliance through soft enforcement and provide information to park user.
- ▶ First approach of APD and Park Rangers.

# Number of Dogs Off Leash Contacts by Park Rangers



# Dogs Off Leash Park Ranger Contacts by Month—FY2017



# Ticketing & Fines

- ▶ Tickets are typically \$100—\$ 150; fines can be up to \$500.
- ▶ Tickets are issued to most regular violators or areas with extreme concerns.
- ▶ APD and Animal Services can currently issue tickets.
- ▶ Austin Law Department—legal opinion that Park Rangers do not have authority to issue tickets.

# Tickets Issued Summary

Charge	Charge Description	2014	2015	2016	Total
64120	Animal - Dog Unrestrained	201	183	210	594
64111	Animal - At Large	186	188	130	504
	Total	387	371	340	1098

# Joint Park Ranger & APD Efforts

- ▶ Park Ranger additional patrols and educational tabling about responsible recreation.
- ▶ APD to join efforts for additional presence and ticket writing.
- ▶ Lawn at Mexican American Cultural Center—successful in 2016 with this approach. Will need to be repeated annually to continue success.

# Next Steps

- ▶ Additional movable signage in cooperation with additional patrols and tabling efforts at known problem areas.
- ▶ Data collection on results of ticket writing versus voluntary compliance public contacts.